ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Eighty-first Annual Session

OF THE

BETHLEHEM

Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Monroe Co., Alabama

September 22 and 23

1897

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. J. H. RIFFE, Monroeville, Ala.
Clerk, SAMUEL H. DAILEY, Kempville, Ala.
Treasurer, THOS. S. WIGGINS, Monroeville, Ala.

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American Baptist Publication Society

ORDAINED MINISTERS IN BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

Name.	Post Office.
J. H. Riffe,	Monroeville, Ala.
W. A. Locke,	Axle, "
B. H. Crumpton,	Belleville, "
A. J. Lambert,	Mt. Pleasant, "
R. I. Draughon,	Perdue Hill, "

MONROE DEMOCRAT JOB PRINT,
Monroeville, Alabama.
1897.

CONSTITUTION.

—O—

ARTICLE. 1. This body shall be called THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. It shall be composed of Messengers duly elected by Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ in connection with this Association. Each church shall be entitled to three Messengers and an additional one for every fifty members or fractional part thereof.

ART. 3. It shall meet annually according to adjournment; and when assembled thus, shall elect, by private ballot, a Moderator and a Clerk whose duties shall be such as custom imposes on their respective offices. They shall continue in office until superseded by their duly elected successors.

ART. 4. This body is no "court of appeal," and shall exercise no ecclesiastical authority over the churches.

ART. 5. The business of this body, when assembled, shall be to hear reports from the churches as to their spiritual condition, prosperity, etc., and to consult and advise together for their mutual development and co-operation in all matters pertaining to the evangelization of the world.

ART. 6. This body, when assembled, may recieve other Missionary Baptist Churches into this Union.

ART. 7. This body may request or receive correspondence with any other like body; or any representative body or interest of our denomination.

ART. 8. This body may invite visiting brethren of like bodies and others representing our denominational interest, to seats with us, and such brethren may speak on any subject coming before the body, but can not vote or officiate as a member of this body.

ART. 9. It shall be the duty of every Messenger of this Association to remain until final adjournment, unless leave of absence is obtained; and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to call the roll of Messengers a to strike therefrom the names of all Messengers absent without lea

ART. 10. The Constitution, the order of Business and the By-Laws shall be printed annually in the minutes of this body.

ART. 11. The Clerk shall keep a regular file of the minutes of this body from year to year.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered, amended (except Art. 4), or repealed and a new one adopted at my regular meeting of this body by a two-thirds voice of the body.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association held its Eighty-first Annual Session with the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Monroe County, Ala., beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 1897. The Association convened at 11 o'clock a. m., and after devotional exercises conducted by Bro. B. H. Crumpton, was called to order by the Moderator.

Bros. E. J. Hardy and C. M. Simmons were appointed a committee to enroll the names of the Messengers.

The appointee being absent by request of Bro. A. J. Lambert, the alternate, Bro. B. H. Crumpton preached the introductory sermon from 14 chapter, 28 verse and 16 chapter and 6 verse of John. The names of Messengers from the different churches were enrolled as follows:—Belleville Church—B. H. Crumpton, William Burt, E. J. Hardy, William Kyser, William Miller; Bethany—D. H. Lee, W. S. Nash, Enoch Riley, Eugene Riley, John Morris; Brewer Creek—W. T. Joiner; Enon—C. E Coley, Jehu Lambert, J. F. Tomlinson; Hamilton Hill—J. Ikner, J. S. Steadham, J. A. Wiggins, J. M. McNeill; Little River—W. R. Lambert; McConnico—R. I. Draughon; Monroeville—J. H. Riffe, T. S Wiggins, T. J. Emmons, C. M. Simmons; Mt. Pleasant—A. J. Lambert; Mt. Olive—T. H. Brantley; Oak Grove—C. M. Carter, Lorenzo Wiggins, D. W. Powell; Barbara Locklin Memorial—Jas. Crook, W. E. Broughton, N. C. Thames, J. D. Boykin; Philadelphia—S. H. Dailey, W. B. Kemp, S. D. Nettles, J. M. Falkenberry; Pleasant Hill—T. J. Newberry, George Stacey, Joe Stacey, B. R. Norris; Pleasant Ridge—G. H. Roley, Joseph Dees, John Buford; Ramah—J. Powell, Temp Thames; Salem—W. J. Newberry, E. H. Adkinson, J. R. Simmons, L. A. Hendrix, L. S. Fountain; Zion—C. A. Locke, H. C. Johnson, Harry Stacey.

Bros. L. S. Fountain, H. C. Johnson and William Burt, were appointed a committee to receive the Ballot for Moderator and Clerk.

A motion prevailed that this body convene at 9 o'clock a. m., adjourn at 12 m., convene at 1:30 p. m., and adjourn at pleasure.

The Moderator appointed the Pastor and Messengers of Pleasant Hill Church a committee on preaching, adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment devotional exercises conducted by Bro. J. H. Riffe. The Moderator read and explained the intent and meaning of the constitution.

Bro. L. S. Fountain of the committee appointed to receive the ballots for Officers of this body, reported the result of the election as follows: Bro. J. H. Riffe, Moderator and S. H. Daily, Clerk.

Bro. A. J. Lambert from committee on preaching announced that Bro. R. I. Draughon would preach at the stand this evening at 3 o'clock.

Bro. B. H. Crumpton was recognized as representative of Howard College, The Alabama Baptist and Judson Institute. He addressed the body and very ably recommended the Howard for the education of the sons, and the Judson for the education of the daughters of Baptists. Bro. J. H. Riffe also very ably discussed the merits of the Foreign Mission Journal, the Howard and the Judson.

A letter from Mt. Olive Church praying admission into this body, was presented. On motion said letter of application was referred to a committee of two, to-wit:—T. J. Emmons and T. J. Newberry for investigation. At the request of the Treasurer his report was postponed until tomorrow morning 10 o'clock.

The committee on the application of Mt. Olive Church, made report, recommending that said church be received into the fellowship of this Association. On motion of Bro.B.H. Crumpton said report was adopted, and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to the Messenger of Mt. Olive Church.

The chairman of the District Board not being ready his report was postponed until tomorrow morning 10:30 o'clock.

Owing to the fact that several reports were unprepared, the regular order of business was suspended in order that the Association might act on any business that is ready to come before it.

On motion Bro. T. J. Emmons was granted leave of absence.

Bro. J. A. Wiggins read report on education and after being discussed by Bros. B. H. Crumpton,J. H. Riffe, C.A. Lock, and A. J. Lambert, the discussion was postponed and after prayer by Bro. A. J. Lambert the Association adjourned until tomorrow morning 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY, THURSDAY.

The Association convened at 9 o'clock devotional exercises conducted by Bro. A. J. Lambert.

The Moderator appointed committees on Questions and Requests, viz: Brothers C. M. Simmons, T. J. Newberry, John Buford, J. A. Wiggins and W. E. Broughton.

Committee on condition of Churches, viz: Brothers E. J..Hardy, A.

J. Lambert and D. H. Lee. Bro. B. H. Crumpton resumed the discussion on Educational report offering an amendment to said report and after being discussed by Brothers Carter and Riffe, said report was adopted as amended as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

On the necessity of education, it is needless that we say any thing, this is generally conceded in this day.

As to its effects upon society and government, it is considered as the twin sister of civilization. This, it appears to your committee, depends upon the nature of the education. If it be mental culture only, it is questionable whether it would be profitable or not. The dual nature of man requires soul, as well as mind culture. This, to some extent, ought to be met by Sabbath School training and Christian family instruction. However, if the literary and moral training can be combined, it is much better. To meet this necessity, the denominations of Christians have established denominational schools and colleges. These institutions not only promote Christian character, by the natural absorption of moral sentiment from contact, as to the students themselves, but they produce a healthier state, moral tone, by way of emulation and comparison. There is no doubt but our State University is much stimulated to the preservation of morality by religious colleges.

The Howard, located at East Lake, within six miles of Birmingham, in a healthy and attractive locality, is the cherished educational male college of the Baptists of Alabama. We are happy to report the indebtedness of the College so reduced that the Trustees feel that all danger of losing the Institution has vanished. The interest has been reduced from 8 per cent. to 5. The college now needs and claims the sympathy and patronage of all Baptists. The faculty will now compare with that of any college.

The Judson, our Female College at Marion, is now on a firm basis again, the entire indebtedness having been met. The outlook for the the Judson is good. All who can, ought to patronize this excellent Institute.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is flourishing, and we trust will recover from the effect of the Whitsitt trouble.

Respectfully submitted.

MESSENGERS OF HAMILTON HILL.

AMENDMENT.

RESOLVED:—That this Association adopt Bro. Collin Locke as Beneficiary, and each church be requested to make special quarterly collections and forward to Rev. W. A. Hobson, Chairman, Board of Ministerial Education, East Lake, Ala., in his behalf.

A motion by Bro. C. A. Lock prevailed, that it is not advisable that the Association should hurry through the business before it.

Bro. T. S. Wiggins made his report as Treasurer. Said report was referred to an auditing committee consisting of Bro's D. W. Powell, W. B. Kemp and W. S. Nash.

S. H. Daily made report on acts and doings of District Board, the discussion of this report postponed until report on State Missions shall be made.

The Moderator appointed the pastors of the association a committee with Bro. A. J. Lambert as chairman, to nominate the Executive and Advisory Board

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived business was suspended and Bro. B. H. Crumpton preached a very able and impressive missionary sermon from Mathew 24, chapter and 14, verse. Adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The association convened at 1:30 p. m. Devotional exercises by Bro. W. R. Lambert, Bro. S. D. Nettles read report on State Missions discussed in connection with report of District Board by Bro. B. H. Crumpton T. S. Wiggins and J. H. Riffe and both of said reports were adopted as follows:

STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee on State missions respectfully report as follows: State Missions for the past two or three years, has been passing through a very hard crises, having been somewhat side tracked in order that the heavy debts hanging over the Foreign and Home boards might be liquidated, and from the fact too that it has had to contend with opposition arising from prejudice, truly failing of the support and co-operation which it justly deserves. Both the foreign and home boards have been since last May, rejoicing in the sun light which has dispelled the clouds of debt that has been hanging over them.

Why not now rally to our State Board and cause it too to rejoice? In-

stead of criticising the board and its work let us pray for it and fully intrust the management of this work to the wise and good men whom we have placed at the head of it.

The present policy of the board is to reach and supply as far as possible larger destitutions within the State, and to aid in maintaining our Baptist cause where it is not self sustaining, in the more populous centers, and through its six travelling evangelists to reach and develop the many undeveloped churches along all lines of general church work.

Respectfully submitted

MESSENGERS OF PHILADELPHIA CHURCH.

DISTRICT BOARD.

The District Board can not report as much mission work as was desired. The efficiency of the work of this board depends to a great extent upon the interest and co-operation of its members which the board has not had during the past year except to a very limited extent. During the associational year, the board secured the labors of Bro. J. H. Riffe for fourteen days at different times, in a community just south of Monroeville; resulting in the organization of a church known as Mt. Olive, admitted into their body at this session. There has been during the year sufficient means on hand to furnish preaching at any point within our bounds where it was desired, but the failure of the advisory members to attend the meetings or to indicate where such preaching was desired or needed has resulted in greatly impairing the value of the work intended. We want to supply destitutions and assist weak or pastorless churches and submit that the plans of the board are such as to render effective work in this direction, if only it could have the earnest attention and co-operation of those whose assistance has been solicited and who have been specially named as its advisers.

Respectfully summitted,

S. H. DAILY, Chairman.

On motion Brothers Buford, Kemp, Joiner and Falkenberry were granted leave of absence.

A collection was taken up for the benefit of Bro. W. A. Lock which resulted in the collection of $18.75. Bro. A. J. Lambert invoked a blessing on said contribution for the benefit of Bro. Locke. Bro. Powell of special auditing committee made report which was adopted as follows:

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

We, the Committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's report,

have made such examination, and find the same correct. We have also counted the funds on hand for the different objects named in the report and find it correct.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. Powell,
W. B. Kemp.
W. S. Nash,
Committee.

Bro. D. W. Powell read report on Home Missions adopted without discussion.

HOME MISSIONS.

Oak Grove Church appointed to report on Home Missions, begs to submit the following per her Messengers:

Home Missions, though less understood, is more far-reaching in its comprehensiveness than, possibly, any other division of the one great mission field. It is but the reverberation of our Master's edict: "This Gospel must be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

The Home Board proposes that sort of mission work in our own home land, such as cannot well be done by any of the other Boards.—Following are some of the fields in which she operates:

1.—The great mountain region extending from Pennsylvania to Central Alabama and from the Piedmont region of the Southeast to the Blue Grass regions of Kentucky and Tennessee.

2.—Work, principally, educational, among the negroes of the Great South Land.

3.—Work among the Indians and on the frontiers of the "Wild West."

4.—Destitutions in several of our States, too large for State Boards unaided.

5.—The establishing of our cause in many populous cities, helping to maintain the same while in its infancy, building houses of worship, and working among the ever-pouring-in Foreign population.

6.—Our Cuban work which has been so fruitful under Bro. Diaz.

The following we quote from the report of the Home Mission Board made at Wilmington: "The hardest year ever experienced by the Home Mission Board has passed into history. "We began it with a debt of $8000,00 and an obligation to pay $5700,00 on the House of Worship purchased for the First Church in N. O. making a total $13700-00 over and above the support of our Missionaries required to meet our

financial needs for the year."

This Board ought to have not only our endorsement, but our prayers and increased contributions as well.

Respectfully submitted,

MESSENGERS FROM OAK GROVE CHURCH.

Bro. E. J. Hardy read report on Foreign Missions adopted without discussion.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We are commanded by the Master to "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel" and under this command we submit the following report, on Foreign Missions.

As the people learn more about the work more earnestly are they praying, growing toiling for its advancement. This work has awakened our churches to higher and holier living, and more consecrated zeal to God. At first it was difficult, very difficult, to get men or means, sixty-five dollars and one man, whose wife was opposed to going stood out conspicuously, now we have annually over $15,000,000 and 12,000 Missionaries on the field. In Africa it is estimated that there are over 17,000 converts annually. In India the religion of Christ has gone in to thousands of hearts and homes. Fiji Islands today have 800 churches. Micronesia, 47 self supporting churches and thousands of church members. Japan 365 churches and 35,000 church members, 359 theological students and 233 ordained native preachers. Wonderful work in Madagascar and other isles of the oceans South America Mexico, and all over the world to day, with 12011 foreigh Missionaries, 60164 native assistants 1251175 communicants.

The above comprises the whole Missionary field. Following is the statistics of Baptists, China 19 churches 44,native helpers, Italy 21 churches 28 native helpers, Mexico 37 churches 18 native helpers, Brazil 14, churches 8 native helpers, Japan 1, church 4 native helpers. We can say the work is a failure and nothing has been done, it was through the blessed truths of Christ brought by Missionaries to our forefathers, that we received our christian civilzation with all its means. What Christianity has done for us, it can and will do for others.

Respectfully submitted,

MESSENGERS BELLVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Bro. W. S. Nash read report on Sabbath schools and after being discussed By Bros. Joiner, Carter and Johnson was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Bethany church appointed to report on Sunday Schools, beg to submit the following: Our Superintendent has taken great pains to ascertain such facts as should be encouched in such report. He has addressed a letter to the Supt. in the several churches within the association asking for information; but alas! only three responded. This must mean that the churches either have no Sunday Schools or else their Supt's manifest an alarming degree of indifference. Our minutes show that we have twenty-three churches within this association and from the best information at hand we only have 7 Sunday Schools. The other 16 churches either have no Sunday Schools, or else fail to report them. Even in the churches, that have Sunday schools, as a rule, the members enrolled in the Sunday School is much less than the the number enrolled on the church book. A great awakening in Sunday School interest is much needed in the Bethlehem Association, how to awaken this interest is the problem yet to be solved. We suggest that the parents and other older persons in our churches begin the solution of this problem by a change of matter. Let them say to their children and others; "Come," instead of, "go." We would also suggest another help to the solution of this problem: viz: that our churches make the Sunday school a creature of the church, born in church conference thereby assuming the responsibility of the control and maintainance of the same. Last but not least, we suggest that the Bible be made more prominent in our Sunday School exercises; and that not only the Sunday school lessons be more thoroughly studied, but a wider range of general Bible knowledge be sought after; and that, withal; a greater spirit of worship be maintained in the Sunday school exercises.

Respectfully submitted,

THE MESSENGERS OF BETHANY CHURCH.

Bro. C. A. Locke Read report on Religious Literature discussed by Bro. B. H. Crumpton and adopted as read as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your committee begs leave to report that our information being limited we do not feel equal to to the task, that has been imposed upon us by this body at its last sitting (that of reporting on Religious Literature) and therefore beg your indulgence. We would recommend first the Holy Bible as the standard, and secondly the Ala., Baptist, the State Mission Journal, and for the use of Sunday Schools the Southern Bap-

tist Publication Series, which are in all respects full and complete, we would also advise our Brethren to remove from their home all cheap trashy literature such as impure novels and detective stories, as we deem them poisonous to young and easily impressed minds, and place in the family such books as Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver. The Bible Story, and the Prince of the House of David, Theodocia Earnest, and many other books that will improve the mind and elevate the standard of morality. We recommend that each Brother place in his home the Alabama Baptist and the State Mission Journal which are our State denominational papers, and should receive our support and hearty co-operation.

Respectfully Submitted,

MESSENGERS OF ZION CHURCH.

Bro. C. E. Coley read report on Temperance discussed by Bros. John Morris, W. R. Lambert, Carter Adkinson and C. A. Locke, adopted.

TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on temperance would gladly report a decrease in the use of intoxicating liquors in our bounds, but from observation and from all we can learn on the subject the decrease is not very perceptable, if any at all. There is, however, less complaint against our law, by special statute prohibiting the sale of liquor and it is seldom that any purpose or desire is expressed in favor of its repeal. We deplore the fact, however, of frequent violations of this law, and too great indifference on the part of Christians as to its enforcement.

We can only urge as has frequently been done before an earnest, prayerful effort on the part of Christians, to suppress this, one of the greatest, if not the greatest evil in our midst, and one of Satan's most effective weapons in the destruction of happiness, homes and souls.

Bro. E. J. Hardy made report on condition of Churches discussed by Bro. Riffe and Joiner and adopted as read as follows:

We, the Committee, on the Spiritual Condition of the Churches, report the followering:

The condition of the majority of churches as reported by letters to this Association is cold. We find the decrease in membership, much larger than the increase, which is an unfavorable feature in the spiritual condition. To increase the spiritual condition of our churches, it would be well to organize prayer-meetings and Sunday schools in each church where there is none, and a more diligent study of the Bible.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. HARDY, Chairman.
A. J. LAMBERT.
D. H. LEE.

Brother C. M. Simmons from committee on Queries and Nominations made following report which was adopted. We, the committee on requests find from the letters, three petitions for the association to convene with them next year, viz: Bethany, Bellville and Philadelphia. We recommend that it convene with Bellville Church on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in September 1898. We recommend Bro. J. H. Riffe as Messenger to the State Baptist convention at Birmingham. We recommend Bro. B. H. Crumpton as Messenger to the Southern Baptist convention at Norfolk. We recommend that these Messengers be authorized to appoint their own Alternats if necessary. We recommend Bro. A. J. Lambert to preach the next Introductory Sermon and Bro. C. A. Locke Alternate.

C. M. SIMMONS, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed committees to report at next session of this body as follows:

1. State Missions, Barbara Locklin Memorial.
2. Home Missions ..... Bethany Church.
3. Foreign Missions, ... Monroeville "
4. Education, ... Philadelphia "
5. Orphans Home, ... Bellville "
6. Sunday Schools, ... Zion "
7. Religious Literature, ... Pleasant Ridge "
8. Temperance, ... Salem "

Bro. A. J. Lambert from committee to nominate District, and Advisory Boards made report adopted as follows:

DISTRICT BOARD.

S. H. Daily, Ch'm, ... Kempville, Ala.,
T. S. Wiggins, Sec't'y and Treas., ... Monroeville, "
W. E. Broughton, ... Perdue Hill, "
D. H. Lee, ... Diadem, "
E. J. Hardy, ... Bellville, "

ADVISORY BOARD.

W. T. Joiner, Bowls, Ala., A. D. McNeil, Hollinger, J. A. Wiggins, Claiborne; W. R. Lambert, Mt. Pleasant; R. J. Draughon, Perdue Hill,

D. W. Powell, Excel; T. J. Newberry, Manistee; Frank Murphy, Monroeville; J. W. Murphy, Nero; J. W. Waters, Finklea; G. W. Thompson, Repton; L. A. Hendrix, Perdue Hill; H. C. Johnson, Axle;—and all the resident Pastors of the association.

A motion prevailed, that the clerk have minutes printed, and receive ten dollars for his services.

The Treasurer and Clerk were granted further time to investigate the matter in relation to the tombstone of Bro. P. H. Lundy. Also the Treasurer was granted further time to investigate the condition of the Alexander Travis Colportuer's Fund.

Owing to the fact (that the committee appointed for the purpose) failed to prepare a report on Orphans Home, none was read, therefore no discussion on this subject, but we believe the churches are in sympathy with and foster their benevolent Institution.

The following resolutions were unanemously adopted:

Resolved, That this body here by tender a vote of thanks to the church, and good people of Pleasant Hill for the hospitable manner in which they have received and entertained us during the sitting of this body.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this body that we recommend to all the churches and people within this association, to keep our churches and homes closed against Mormons.

The business being closed Bro. B. H. Crumpton offered prayer and the association adjourned to meet with the Bellville Baptist church Conecuh county, Ala., on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in September 1898.

S. H. DAILY,
Clerk.

J. H. RIFFE,
Moderator.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1897—Thos. S. Wiggins, Treasurer, &c.
In account with the Bethlehem Bap. Association.

1896	Oct, 17,	To amt, of W. E. Broughton, former Treasurer		$268.22
	Nov. 24,	By amt, to W. C. Bledsoe Missions	$117.20	
	" "	By amt, to J. W. Stewart Orphans H	37.35	
	" 17	By amt, to S. H. Daily, Minutes	25.75	
1897	Apr. 13	By amt, to J. H. Riffe Bal. Mission work	5.75	
"	July 19	By amt, to J. H. Riffe	6.95	
		By postage and money order fees	59	193.59
		To balance on hand District Mission fund		$74.63

CHURCHES.	DISTRICT MISSIONS		STATE MISSIONS		HOME MISSIONS		FOREIGN MISSIONS		ORPHANS HOME		MIN'ST ED		MIN,	HOWARD COLLEGE	
	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	Cash	Voucher	ash	Voucher	Cash	Cash	Voucher
Salem				70	50				1.40		1.25		1.25		
Judson															
Philadelphia	4.38		58	3.80	4.38		4.38		8.68		1175		1.55		
Repton	50		50	4.50	50		50		25						
Pleasant Ridge			1.15		1.05		1.75		1.20						3.75
Zion			88		2.05		1.04		1.20				55		55
Oak Grove	45			1.00	45		45						1.10		5.00
Ramah				1.45			1.20				1.00		60		
Bethany			4.50	1050			2 00				1.50		1.25		8.50
Monroeville	5.89			1255	5.89		5.89		5.15		4.00		2.40		1000
Poplar Springs															
Enon	65		1.25		90		2.10		2.56				1.30		1.50
Hamilton Hill	3.00			5.00		5.00						2.50	1.25		1000
Bellville			2.60		2.60		2.60				3.65		2.00		
Pleasant Hill													70	1.60	
McConico															
Little River															
Mt. Pleasant															
Barbara Locklin Memorial	5.00			6.61	5.00		5.00		5.00		5.00		50 1.50		9.00
Brewer Creek					3.50				1.00				80		
Mt. Olive				1.80									25		
	1987		1146	4791	2682	5.00	2691		2644		2815	2.50	1700	1.60	4830

No report from Judson, Poplar Springs, McConico, and Little River.

Value of church property in the Association $8400,00.

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Pupils.	SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME AND P. O. ADDRESS.	Preaching Sabbaths
Bellville	Conecuh	30	W M Miller, Bellville,	4th
Bethany	Monroe	34	A. J Lee, Diadem,	1st.
Brewer Creek	Conecuh			3rd.
Enon	Monroe			2nd.
Hamilton Hill	Monroe			3rd.
Judson	Escambia			
Little River	Monroe			1st.
Mars Hill	Escambia			
Montgomery Hill	Baldwin			
Monroeville	Monroe	60	T S Wiggins, Monroeville,	2nd.
Mt Pleasant	Monroe	25	A J Lambert, Mt Pleasant	3rd.
McConnico	Monroe			
Oak Grove	Monroe	48	Charles Carter, Mexia,	3rd.
Pleasant Hill	Monroe			4th.
Pleasant Ridge	Monroe			3rd.
Poplar Springs	Monroe			
Barbara Locklin	Monroe			3rd.
Philadelphia	Monroe	40	J T Newberry, Kempville,	4th.
Ramah	Monroe	25	J H Waters, Finklea,	2nd.
Repton	Conecuh			
Salem	Monroe			2nd.
Zion	Monroe			1st.
Mt Olive	Monroe			2nd.

Names of Churches organized during year:—Mt. Olive.

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Membership last reported.	INCREASE BY				DECREASE BY			Present Membership
						Baptism	Letter.	Voucher.	Restoration	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.	
Bellville	Conecuh	B H Crumpton	D S Crum	Bellville	86	4	5		1	2		4	90
Bethany	Monroe	J H Riffe	H T Fountain, Jr	Burnt Corn	66	2				4	2	3	59
Brewer Creek	Conecuh	I S Ridgeway	J H Kelley	Bowles	122	15	3			10	47		83
Enon	Monroe	A J Lambert	L R Carter	Hollinger	69	12	4		1	2			84
Hamilton Hill	Monroe	B H Crumpton	L A Hixon	Claiborne	52		2			2			52
Judson	Escambia	No letter			48								
Little River	Monroe	A J Lambert	W R Lambert	Mt Pleasant	21							1	20
Mars Hill	Escambia	No letter			63								
Montgomery Hill	Baldwin	No letter			52								
Monroeville	Monroe	J H Riffe	John DeLoach	Monroeville	92		3			2		2	91
Mt Pleasant	Monroe	J M Hall			31			1		2			30
McConnico	Monroe	No Letter			22								
Oak Grove	Monroe	J H Riffe	D W Powell	Excel	102	2	1		1	7	1		98
Pleasant Hill	Monroe	A J Lambert	J W Wilkinson	Mainstee	116					9	17	1	89
Pleasant Ridge	Monroe	W A Lock	J L Smith	Monroeville	90		4						94
Poplar Springs	Monroe	No letter			51								
Barbara Locklin	Monroe	J H Riffe	J D Boykin	Perdue Hill	51	1	4			2		1	53
Philadelphia	Monroe	J H Riffe	J D Nettles	Kempville	118		1			2		1	116
Ramah	Monroe	I S Ridgway	J H Waters	Finklea	94	15	1		1		1		113
Repton	Conecuh	No letter			27								
Salem	Monroe	W A Lock	L S Fountain	Perdue Hill	144		2			8	4	1	133
Zion	Monroe	W A Lock	C C McWilliams	Axle	139		2			10	2	1	128
Mt Olive	Monroe	J. H. Riffe	T H Brantley	Bermuda		6	3						9
					1636	57	35		7	60	74	15	1312

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

———O———

1. Call the body to order at 11 a. m.
2. Refer the letters to a committee of two for enrollment of Messengers.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Roll-call for correction.
5. Appointment of a committee of two to receive the ballot for Moderator and Clerk, at the door on re-assembling.
6. Fixing time for meeting and adjourning during the session.
7. Appointment of committee on preaching.
8. Adjournment.
9. Report of committee on election of Moderator and Clerk.
10. Recognition of visiting brethren.
11. Reading Constitution.
12. Reception of churches.
13. Announcement of Standing Committees to report during the session and filling vacancies, if any occur, and appointment of other necessary committees.
14. Hearing and discussing reports: (1.) Treasurer's and appointment of committee to audit same and report at pleasure; (2) Chairman of District Board; (3) State Missions; (4) Home Missions; (5) Foreign Missions; (6) Education; (7) Orphan's Home; (8) Sunday Schools; (9) Religious Literature; (10) Temperance; (11) Conditions of Churches; (12) Nominations and Requests.
15. Appointment of Standing Committees to report at next session.
16. New Business.
17. Resolutions.
18. Adjournment.

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